

MONTANA SCHOOLS



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THE 1970-71 MONTANA EDUCATION DIRECTORY will be mailed to all county and school district officials this month. The directory lists all Montana schools, with enrollment and number of teachers, plus names of board chairmen, superintendents and principals. School addresses and telephone numbers are also included. For extra copies, write Mrs. Marilou Madden, Information Services Supervisor, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

RONALD FENEX, biology teacher at Billings West High School, has been selected as the Montana recipient of the Australian International Teaching Fellowship. Fenex will leave Montana in January to take a two-year teaching position at Geelong West Secondary Technical School, Geelong, Australia.

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS FOR SECONDARY ENGLISH TEACHERS are scheduled for Miles City, December 5, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Billings, December 7, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. and Missoula, December 12, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The workshops will explore the use of films for stimulating student discussion and writing. A similar workshop is scheduled for Great Falls early in January. For further details, write William Ferguson, English Supervisor, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

TRAFFIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS must be approved, before the programs begin, to be eligible for reimbursement. Deadlines are January 10 for second semester programs and May 15 for summer programs. Application forms and information about approval procedures may be obtained from Jerry Toner, Traffic and Safety Education Supervisor, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

PUTTING RESEARCH INTO EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE (PREP): Series 16, "Individualized Instruction," explores the many approaches to individualized instruction and reports the experiences of educators who have inaugurated such programs. The series also provides data upon which administrators and board members can make informed decisions concerning individualized instruction for their schools or school district. Copies are available from Mrs. Margaret Brown, Educational Media Librarian, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

CHECK BEFORE YOU MAIL: A considerable volume of mail arrives at the State Superintendent's Office with postage being due. Postage due mail is frequently lost before its arrival. In order to prevent this possibility and the consequent inconvenience, please weigh, classify and stamp mail properly before you send it. Many blank program application forms are sent to districts as special fourth class mail; however, completed forms must be returned by *first class mail*. A few cents could mean the difference between prompt action or time-consuming delay.

ESEA TITLE I APPLICATION DEADLINES are December 30, 1970 for projects scheduled to begin during the second semester of the school year and March 10, 1971 for projects scheduled to operate during the summer months (June, July or August) of 1971.

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER SCHOOLS annual meeting is scheduled for December 6 through 9 at Portland, Oregon.

THE 1971 DIRECTORY OF EDUCATIONAL SOUND FILMS will be available January 15. The publication lists all of the films maintained by the Audiovisual Library, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The directory sells for \$8.00. Order directly from State Publishing Company, 104 Broadway, Helena 59601.

NDEA TITLE III APPLICATION DEADLINE for FY'71 projects is December 31, 1970. Montana's allocation for acquisition and remodeling under NDEA III is \$207,298 for this fiscal year, representing a 35.6% increase over the FY'70 allocation. Reimbursement rate for FY'71 projects will be determined as soon as possible after the first of the year. Additional application forms are available from William Cunneen, Director, General Support for Schools Educational Program, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Please return completed forms by first class mail.

MAUREEN GOLIK, MALTA AND EDWARD HOGAN, MISSOULA visited the State Superintendent's Office as Superintendents-For-A-Day on November 30. Miss Golik and Hogan were elected Superintendents of Public Instruction at Girls State and Boys State, respectively. Their Helena visit introduced them to the duties and responsibilities of Montana's chief state school officer.

SURPLUS PROPERTY function of the State Superintendent's Office is constantly acquiring new equipment. At present, pots, pans, cups and parachutes are available in large quantities. The warehouse, located at 1320 Bozeman Avenue, Helena, will be open during the Christmas holidays.

STAFF CHANGES IN THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE:

Miss Kaye Caskey, formerly Communications Assistant for the Physical Plant at the University of Montana, Missoula, is Program Assistant for the Information Services function.

Miss Cheryl Hutchinson, until recently attending graduate school at the University of Montana, Missoula, is Program Assistant in the Research, Planning, Development and Evaluation component.

MONTANA SCHOOL OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTED ANNUAL INFORMATION for accreditation of schools. The following facts and figures were taken from a report just compiled by the State Superintendent's Office for the U. S. Office of Education:

Total enrollment in Montana public schools as of October 1, was 176,712, compared with 174,784 reported a year ago. This is an increase of 1,928 pupils, or slightly more than one percent.

The elementary enrollment from kindergarten through grade 8, except in junior high schools, was 107,336, compared with 107,747 reported last year. The decrease of 411 pupils represents a drop of under four-tenths of one percent.

The high school enrollment including grades 7 and 8 in accredited junior high schools continues to increase as elementary peak enrollments of earlier years move into the high schools. This year's high school total of 69,376 represents 2,339 more pupils than the 67,037 reported last year, an increase of nearly three and one half percent.

High school graduates last year numbered 11,520 compared with 10,834 the preceding year. This year the senior class enrollment of 12,205 is 313 above last year's figure. In addition to the graduates, 1,090 people were granted high school equivalency certificates in 1969-70.

Schools reported 8,532 classrooms now in use. Local officials reported that 64 additional classrooms are scheduled for completion this year and that 285 were completed last year.

Classroom needs, school officials report, include 156 rooms to accommodate pupils now in overcrowded classrooms plus 233 rooms to replace unsatisfactory facilities. Of the total classroom need of 389, about one-sixth will be met by this year's construction.

A total of 910 pupils are attending school for less than a normal school day (split shift or other arrangements) due to overcrowding.

As of October 1, Montana had 673 governmental entities operating schools, including common school districts, high school districts and counties, a decrease of 28 since October 1, 1969. Currently there are 70 districts not operating any schools; operating and non-operating districts total 743.